**Agriculture Industry Symposium**

**Outcome:** Establish relationships between agriculture industry and natural resource professionals to increase the awareness of conservation programs. Identify areas where production agriculture and conservation are mutually beneficial. Agriculture industry have a better understanding of voluntary incentive-based conservation programs and can communicate information to producers about how conservation programs could be an economically viable option within their operations.

**Objectives:**

* + Build a network for collaboration on projects to address habitat, water management, and nutrient concerns.
	+ Explore tools and opportunities for integrated conservation solutions.
	+ Engagement between industry leaders and conservation professionals to identify programmatic bottlenecks and solutions.
	+ Roundtable discussions to address key resource concerns

**Conservation Practitioner Symposium Agenda**

*8:00* – Registration/coffee social

*8:30* – Welcome - Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations

* Economically viable working farm and ranch operations
* Voluntary Incentive Based
* Avoid regulatory mandates
* Gain understanding of different perspectives
	+ Alignment of opportunity
	+ Areas of misalignment
* Where do we go from here

*8:45* – Ice Breaker and Introductions

*9:45* – Plenary Session 1 - Finding the Balance Between Ag Productions and Natural Resource Conservation by Dr. Andrew Little (UNL Extension)

*10:20* - Plenary Session 2 - Nebraska Strategic Ag Coalition by Alexa Davis (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources) and Rachael Whitehair (Nebraska Corn Board)

*10:55* - Plenary Session 3 - Economics of Playa Wetland Conservation Programs by Dr. Ron Seymore (UNL Extension) and Jordan Rodriguez (Natural Resources Conservation Service)

*11:30* – Lunch

*12:30* – Conservation Roundtable – facilitated discussion.

*3:10* - Closing: Where do we go from here? What will you take with you today?

*3:30* – Adjourn

These events have been approved by the American Society of Agronomy for continuing education credits for: Soil & Water Management: 0.5 hrs

Crop Management: 0.5 hrs

Professional Development: 0.5 hrs

Sustainability: 0.5hrs.

A sign-in sheet will be available on-site. Event organizers will complete paperwork submission for all attendees.